is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the finality of the recent rejection. Claim 1, also finally rejected, stands rejected based on Pfaff, also cited for the first time in prosecution in the most recent Office Action. Without knowledge of the reference, Applicant's amendment to claim 1, filed October 30, 2003, could not have necessitated the rejection. Likewise, claim 14 stands rejected, based solely upon Rudd et al., also cited for the first time in the most recent Office Action. As stated with regard to claims 1 and 12, Applicant's amendment to claim 14, filed October 30, 2002, cannot be said to have necessitated the rejection. Finally, the Examiner cites Underwood, Jr., et al. in rejecting claims 8-11. Applicant did not previously amend claims 8-11 at all. Applicant's amendments could not have necessitated a rejection, because Applicant never amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the finality of the rejections made in the Office Action dated January 30, 2003.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

C1

2. A method of controlling and/or monitoring a laser diode with a microprocessor having memory storage of data, the method comprising:

storing in said memory power-safety parameters of said laser diode with said microprocessor during operation of said laser diode, wherein said parameters include laser pulse peak output power and laser pulse duration;

continuously monitoring said laser output power;

continuously monitoring laser pulse duration; and

disabling operation of said laser diode whenever one or more parameters are exceeded.

C2

8. A laser driver control system comprising:

a remote microprocessor;

a laser driver printed control board;

a host microprocessor on said printed control board;

at least one laser driver and a corresponding laser diode on said printed control board; and

a serial communication between said host microprocessor and said laser driver;

temperature control means for controlling a temperature of said laser diode within a predetermined temperature range;

wherein said host microprocessor is programmed to set a set point temperature of the temperature control means.

12. A method of controlling a laser diode comprising:

activating a control circuit that includes said laser diode at a current level less than the current threshold to activate said laser diode;

activating said laser diode by increasing the current in said control circuit above said threshold for a specified duration; and

reducing said current below said threshold to deactivate said laser diode;

operating temperature control means to maintain an output wavelength of said laser diode within a predetermined range during diode operation.

13. A laser driver control system comprising:

at least one laser diode, a circuit for sensing the current through said laser diode, comparator for continuously comparing said current to a predetermined value, and power supply switch for disabling said current to said laser diode if said current exceeds said value;

a power control circuit loop including the components of said sensing circuit, said comparator and power supply switch operably connected to a microprocessor to positively verify operation of said components, and means to disable said laser diode if operation of any of said components is not positively verified; and

a remote computer monitoring the pulse frequency and duration of said laser diode and means to disable said laser diode if predetermined pulse and duration values are exceeded; and